

## The Birth of Modern European Thought

Ch 25

### Positivism

- During the early 1800's Auguste Comte, later known as the "Father of Sociology," would write his most famous work, *The Positive Philosophy*.



### The New Reading Public

- In 1850 approximately one-half of western Europe was illiterate while most of the population of Russia was illiterate.
- Following the revolutions of 1848, mass public education saw steady gains throughout Europe.
- By 1900, about 85% of the people of Western Europe were literate, whereas in Eastern Europe rates ranged from 30 to 60%.

### Positivism

- Comte believed that human thought had developed in three logical stages.
  - Theological Stage
    - Physical nature explained in terms of the actions of gods.
  - Metaphysical Stage
    - Abstract ideas were used to explain natural laws.
  - Positive Stage
    - You can discover and explain laws of social behavior thru research and experimentation.
- The work of Comte showed that knowledge in any area of study should use scientific methods in discovering solutions to social problems.

### The Three- R's

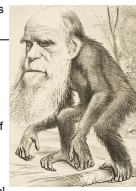
- Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic, was the basis for public education throughout Europe.
- Conservatives and liberals both favored such education in order to develop a better informed group of voters.
- They also hoped a better educated workforce would allow for a more prosperous country.
- Supported the Enlightenment idea that : "right knowledge would lead to right action."

### Charles Darwin

- The *Origin of Species*, published in 1859, by Charles Darwin, may have caused one of the greatest debates in history between the world of religion and science.
- The idea of evolution was not new, but Darwin to explain how various species had evolved over time.
- Darwin's theory of natural selection not only contradicted Genesis, but also the Deistic theories of the day.
- Though often credited with the phrase, "survival of the fittest," that phrase is actually the words of the sociologist, Herbert Spencer.



- The *Descent of Man*
- In 1871, Darwin applied his theories to the evolution of man in his work, *"The Descent of Man."*
- Darwin believed that man had evolved physically and socially, naturalistically in response to the needs for survival.
- Though met with great resistance, Darwin's theory of evolution was widely accepted by the beginning of the 1900s, but it was not until the 1920s were his ideas on natural selection supported, due to greater information in the field of genetics.
- Aided by the work of Gregor Mendel



### Readings for the Masses

- A more literate Europe led to the development of a new market for various reading materials.
  - Cheap mass-circulation newspapers.
  - Le Petit Journal* (Paris)
  - Daily Mail & Daily Express* (London)
- Advertising found in the papers promoted the purchase of new consumer products created by the Second Industrial Revolution.
- Since most of the readership was only semi-literate many of the newspapers of the day relied on sensationalism and political scandals.
- Though overall the subject matter of the literature of the day was quite low, it was a breeding ground for more advanced learning and a more informed public.

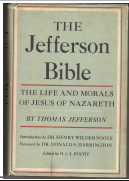
### Herbert Spencer

- As mentioned earlier, Herbert Spencer, is credited with the phrase, "survival of the fittest."
- Spencer believed that people progressed and evolved through competition.
- If weak people are protected too much by society, society as a whole will decline.
- Justified the denial of aid to the poor and the domination of ethnic groups, or countries over one another.
- Does "might make right"?

## Science of the Mid 19th Century

## Christianity and the Church Under Siege

## Religious Skepticism



- Many of the philosophes of the Enlightenment enjoyed looking for contradictions with the Bible.
- 1835, David Friedrich Strauss wrote *The Life of Jesus*, in which he researched whether information in the Bible was historically correct.
- The questioning of the historical validity of the Bible caused many literate men and women to begin to lose faith in the respective Churches.

## German Kulturkampf

- The greatest conflict between Church and State occurred in Germany.
- After the unification of Germany in 1870, Bismarck believed the Catholic Church and the Catholic Center Party to be a threat to his new government.
- In 1871, the German government took over control of the schools in Germany from the church.
- The "May Laws" of 1873 was another attempt, at least in Prussia to take control of the Church within its borders.
- Bismarck's attempt to de-Christianize Prussia, which was known as Kulturkampf (cultural struggle), proved to be unsuccessful and one of Bismarck's greatest blunders politically.

## Science Vs. Religion

- The writers of the 19th century, exposed the writings of 18th century philosophers and their attempt to use science to support Christian beliefs.
- Between the works of Darwin and other scientists such as William Paley and his work, Natural Theology, doubt was cast upon such segments of the Bible such as Genesis.
- Another scientist of the day, was Charles Lyell, who suggested that the earth was much older than estimated by the Bible.

## Revival of the Church

- Though attacked throughout Europe, the Catholic Church survived.
- Protestant religions also survived and increased its membership during the late 19th century.
- The church looked to the urban poor and new converts to their various religions.
- During the last half of the 19th century, the Christian churches of Europe and especially the Roman Catholic Church attempted one great final attempt to Christianize Europe.
- The resources of the Church were not sufficient to convert the growing population of Europe.



## The Catholic Church

- Liberal views that developed in Europe during the early 19th century came under attack by the Catholic Church during the latter half of the century.
- Following Italian unification, Pope Pius IX issued the Syllabus of Errors, condemning liberalism and modern thought.
- Pope Pius firmly set the Catholic Church against the contemporary views of science, philosophy and politics.

## Morality and Christianity

- Other scholars questioned the morality of the Christian Church.
- Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher believed that Christianity was a religion of sheep that glorified weakness rather than strength.
  - "War and courage have accomplished more great things than love of neighbor."
- This overall criticism against religion had its greatest effect on the upper classes.

## The First Vatican Council

- In 1869, the First Vatican Council was summoned.
- The council supported the attempts by the Pope to put down liberal views throughout Europe.
- The Council ended when Italian troops invaded Rome during the Franco-Prussian War.
- The power of the papacy would soon be limited to the newly created Vatican city.
- The papacy would also view itself only as a spiritual leader rather than a political and temporal authority.

## Church Against State

- The rising national states of Europe came into conflict with the Protestant and Catholics Churches during the 19th century.
- One of the key areas of conflict was in the control of education.
- The Education Act of 1879 in England called for the development of state-supported schools run by elected school boards.
- The Church feared that these new schools would not include religious dogma and ideology into its teachings.
- The English Education Act of 1902 provided state-support for both religious and secular schools but established standards for each.

## Pope Leo XIII

- Pope Pius was succeeded by Pope Leo XIII.
  - Using the writings of Thomas Aquinas, Leo attempted to solve some of the current problems of the Church in a new Europe.
  - Pope Leo, saw the Catholic Church as a different kind of political leader in the world.



## Education in France

- In France, under the Falloux Law, priests provided religious education within the public schools.
- This changed with the Ferry Laws (Jules Ferry), which replaced religious training with instructions on citizenship.
- Conflict between the Church and State over education continued throughout the 19th century and in 1905, the Napoleonic Concordat was terminated.
- Church and State schools were completely separated.

## Pope Leo XIII

- In his *Rerum Novarum* (1891) he defended private property, religious education, and religious control of marriage laws.
- Leo also condemned socialism and Marxism, but believed that employers should treat their employees fairly.

## Pope Leo's Corporate Society

- Pope Leo XIII developed a compromise between socialism and capitalism calling for a corporate society, including people from all classes guided by Christian principles.
  - Based upon feudal political organizations.
- Led to the development of Catholic political parties as well as Catholic trade unions.
  - Catholic political parties will come to dominate in several European countries such as in Germany.

## Modernism

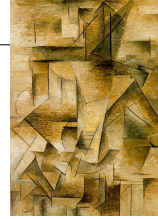
- The modernistic views of Europe were not just seen in literature of the day.
- All areas of the arts were effected.
- In music, painting, sculpture, and literature a new way of thinking progressed causing many changes away from traditional views.
  - For example the "Cubism" of Pablo Picasso in his painting saw a dramatic change for art of the early 19th century.

## Pope Pius X

- Much that was accomplished by Pope Leo XIII was undone by Pope Pius X.
- Pope Pius wanted to restore the traditional views and values of the Catholic Church.
- Later named as a saint, he required all priests to take an anti-Modernist oath.
- Though now against most modern intellectual thought of the day, the Catholic Church continued to allow people to participate actively in political and social movements.

## Cubism

- *Le guitariste*, Picasso



## A New Way of Thinking

Toward a 20th Century Frame of Mind

## Friedrich Nietzsche

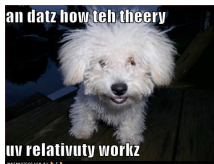
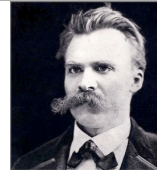
- One of the great philosophers of the late 19th century was Friedrich Nietzsche.
- His writings didn't propose to change social values but explore how these values developed.
- Nietzsche also criticized various powerful institutions of the day such as democracy and Christianity.
  - Both would lead to the mediocrity of sheepish masses.
- Nietzsche was also critical of racism and anti-Semitism.

## Science

- Several developments occurred in the scientific community in the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century.
- Wilhelm Roentgen discovered x-rays.
- Henri Becquerel discovered that uranium emitted a similar form of energy.
- JJ. Thomson formulated the theory of the electron.
- Ernest Rutherford developed the theory explaining the cause of radiation.
- Albert Einstein developed his theories on relativity.

## Nietzsche Quotes

- A pair of powerful spectacles has sometimes sufficed to cure a person in love.



## Nietzsche Quotes

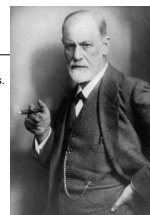
- All things are subject to interpretation; whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth.
- Faith: not wanting to know what is true.
- God is dead.
- That which doesn't kill us makes us stronger.

## Literature

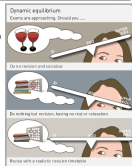
- Realism and naturalism were the main ingredients to literature of the late 19th century.
- Charles Dickens wrote of the reality of life for the poor in industrialized England.
- Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* is often considered the first realistic novel.
- Emile Zola turned realism into a social movement.
- L'Assommoir discussed the problems of alcoholism.
- Nana delved into the life of a prostitute.
- George Bernard Shaw wrote about reality of love and war and not their romantic ideals.

## Sigmund Freud

- As a doctor he became interested in psychic disorders.
- Early in his career he studied the use of hypnosis to solve hysteria and other psychic disorders.



- Freud will eventually begin to allow his patients to talk about their past and soon discovered the relationship with past events and the problems his clients faced.
- Freud will also investigate the use of dream interpretation to help his clients try to understand their problems.
- His theories also looked at personality development
  - Id, Ego, and Super Ego



## Max Weber

- A prominent sociologist of the latter 19th century was Max Weber.
- Believed that the rational development of social institutions helped society to advance.
- His Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, showed the relationship of the Protestant Reformation and how its ideas led to the later development of capitalism throughout Europe.
- In other research, Weber studied the use of bureaucracies in society.
- Considered a "Necessary evil."

## Feminism

- The feminist movement also began to grow during the latter 19th century.
- Women began to challenge their roles in society as "mothers."
  - Challenged the double standard of sexual morality.
  - How working conditions and low wages forced many women into prostitution.
  - Unequal educational attainment.
  - The right to vote.
- Due to their lack of support many women turned to socialism as a possible venue to gain rights within their society.



**FEMINISM**  
Not so popular in rural Russia.